



Fact Sheet: The Republican Party is Defunding the Police

Repeated Cuts to Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring program and Byrne Memorial Justice (Byrne JAG) Grants Show Who Really Stands for Public Safety

Since its inception, the COPS program has placed more than 130,000 sworn law enforcement officers in communities across the country. Byrne JAG provides local law enforcement with training, equipment, and supplies in communities that lack the funds they need. Yet year after year, Republican Party leaders and Donald Trump have sought massive cuts to law enforcement funding. Each time, Democrats have fought back against these draconian cuts to public safety.

- **Fiscal Year 2018:** Trump's [FY18 budget](#) cut Byrne JAG funding by 11% (from \$375 million in FY17 to \$332 million in FY18). The House GOP majority took things a step further, proposing to zero out the COPS program in the [FY18 CJS bill](#). Rep. Pascrell [successfully led a bipartisan amendment](#) to restore funding for the COPS program, which was then funded at \$150 million.
 - **Defunding Federal Grants:** Amidst these proposed cuts to public safety, Trump and his Justice Department [began efforts](#) to illegally hold up state and local law enforcement grants from jurisdictions that refused to comply with his immigration policies. Rep. Pascrell fought back against these restrictions, [penning several letters](#) to the Justice Department and seeking appropriations language to put a stop to these holdups which endangered the safety of Americans whose police departments rely on federal funding.
- **Fiscal Year 2019:** Trump's [FY19 budget eliminated the COPS Office](#) and cut the COPS program by over 50% (from \$225 million in FY18 to \$99 million). Rep. Pascrell [led a bipartisan letter](#) signed by 135 Members to Trump highlighting the importance of keeping the COPS Office independent and the hiring program fully funded. Thanks to these efforts, the COPS program was funded at \$153 million.
- **Fiscal Year 2020:** After being rebuked the previous year, Trump's [FY20 budget](#) again proposed eliminating the COPS Office and reducing funding for the COPS program by over 50% (from \$228.5 million in FY19 to \$99 million in FY20). House Democrats [successfully funded](#) the COPS Office at \$343 million (compared to \$304 million in FY19 when House Republicans controlled the majority) and [Byrne JAG at \\$547 million](#) (compared to \$424 million in FY19 when Republicans held the majority).
 - **Stiffing Local Cops:** It was first reported in 2020 that Trump [failed to pay](#) nearly \$2 million owed to state and local police that protected his notoriously violent rallies. Rep. Pascrell [wrote to the FEC](#) demanding an investigation of the Trump campaign for its repeated refusal to reimburse host cities for public safety costs. As of this year, the Trump campaign is [still](#) stiffing local cops.
- **Fiscal Year 2021:** Once again, Trump's [FY21 budget](#) proposed eliminating the COPS Office and reducing funding by over 50% (from \$235 million in FY20 to \$99 million in FY21). Unsatisfied with the increased funding for public safety that House Democrats won the previous year, the FY21 budget called for a 25% decrease in Byrne JAG funding (from \$547 million in FY20 to \$411 million in FY21). Meanwhile, House Democrats [passed legislation](#) that retained level funding for the COPS program and Byrne JAG and increased funding for state and local law enforcement assistance from \$1.89 billion in FY20 to \$2.4 billion

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in FY21. That was a \$510 million increase to assist state and local law enforcement with implementing reforms that improve community policing and public safety!

- ***Defending Insurrectionists Assaulting Cops:*** After the January 6 insurrection in which our U.S. Capitol Police put their lives on the line, 138 House Republicans sided with the insurrectionists and voted to throw out the 2020 election. Nearly every single Republican – 205 Members – voted against emergency appropriations to provide \$1.9 billion to boost security for the Capitol complex and provide additional benefits for Capitol Police Officers, who protect Congress with dedication and valor. The supplemental funding legislation was based directly on the findings and recommendations of Lt. General. Russel Honoré, who was tasked with evaluating the best ways to protect the Capitol complex and secure it against future threats in the wake of the insurrection. Twenty-one Republicans even voted against awarding Congressional Gold Medals to officers who protected Congress on January 6.
- **Fiscal Year 2022:** President Biden’s FY22 budget included \$513.5 million for Byrne JAG, an increase of \$29.5 million from FY21 and \$537 million for COPS Hiring Grants, an increase of \$300 million from FY21. Through this budget, President Biden reversed years of attempted defunding by Republicans and fulfilled his campaign promise to support community policing. The Democratic 117th Congress increased funding for COPS programs to \$512 million, including \$111.7 million in community project funding and \$157 million in COPS Hiring Grants. Democrats also increased funding to \$675 million for Byrne JAG, including \$184.7 million in community project funding. That’s a 32% increase for COPS and 39% increase for Byrne JAG from the prior fiscal year made by Democrats!
- **Fiscal Year 2023:** As part of his FY23 budget, President Biden announced his Safer America Plan, an ambitious long-term project to invest in community policing and crime prevention. Part of the Safer America Plan called for \$10.877 billion in mandatory funding over five years for the COPS program to recruit, train, and hire 100,000 additional police officers. Under this plan, President Biden’s FY23 budget requested a new investment of over \$35 billion in mandatory funding to support law enforcement and crime prevention. This is in addition to a \$2 billion discretionary funding request for these same programs, including again requesting \$537 million for the COPS program. Congressional Democrats answered President Biden’s call by increasing funding for the COPS program to \$663 million, including \$265.7 million in community project funding and a significantly increased \$225 million for COPS Hiring grants. Democrats also increased Byrne JAG funding to \$771 million, including \$229.5 million in community project funding. That’s another 29% increase for the COPS program and a 14% increase for Byrne JAG from the prior fiscal year, on top of the significant increases included in the FY22 omnibus!
- **Fiscal Year 2024:** President Biden’s FY24 budget again includes his Safer America Plan, requesting over \$10 billion in mandatory COPS program funding to put another 100,000 officers on our streets and again requesting \$537 million in discretionary funding for the COPS program. But the new Republican House Majority wants to reverse years of increased police funding by slashing spending for essential law enforcement and public safety programs by at least 22 percent. The GOP’s decision to defund the police has real consequences for our communities:
 - ***Endangering National Security:*** According to the Department of Justice, a 22% reduction in discretionary funding would be a loss of more than \$8 billion that is needed for the Department to accomplish its public safety and national security responsibilities.

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- ***Defunding Federal Law Enforcement:*** If the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) budget were cut by 22 percent, it would see an effective [reduction](#) of \$2.8 billion, which would negate nine years of growth in the FBI's key programs. The FBI would lose nearly 11,000 personnel, approximately 29.2 percent of its workforce. Trump has [demanded](#) going even further. Republican Members of Congress including [Andy Biggs](#), [Paul Gosar](#), [Lauren Boebert](#), [Matt Gaetz](#), [Marjorie Taylor Greene](#) and [Jeff Duncan](#) have professed their desire to defund law enforcement agencies.
- ***Crushing Gun Violence Prevention:*** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) [estimates](#) that a 22 percent cut would result in a hiring freeze which means 190 agents, 130 Industry Operations Investigators, and 180 technical and support staff would be lost to attrition. Such a large reduction is expected to eliminate all state and local training at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research, create a backlog of regulatory inspections that would take years to clear, and increase crime gun trace times by more than two months at the National Tracing Center. Amidst a nationwide rise in gun crime, Republicans would ensure there are fewer ATF Special Agents available to assist law enforcement across our country.
- ***Slowing Police Hiring:*** Additionally, a 22% reduction [would mean](#) over \$50 million in cuts for the COPS program. The office would only be able provide about 200 awards to support law enforcement hiring, a reduction of approximately 60 awards from FY23. The office would also need to decrease the number of law enforcement positions funded by up to 400 positions.
- ***Refusing to Fund the Police:*** Democrats marked Police Week in 2022 by passing two bipartisan bills to bolster federal benefits and fund the police, both of which became law. The Democratic House [passed](#) Rep. Pascrell's TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act ([H.R. 2992](#)) to authorize over \$270 million in funding over five years to support police counseling services and improve officer interactions with individuals with mental illness. The House also [passed](#) the Public Safety Officer Support Act ([H.R. 6943](#)) to expand federal benefits for first responders who die by suicide or are permanently disabled because of traumatic service-related experiences. Meanwhile, the Republican House Majority is pushing [partisan messaging](#) bills during Police Week 2023 which fail to provide any new resources or funding for our law enforcement officers. Republicans even [refused to consider](#) Rep. Pascrell's amendment recognizing Congress's commitment to increasing funding for our federal policing grants.

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NY Daily News Op-Ed by Rep. Pascrell (Sept. 3, 2020)

[Donald Trump vs. law enforcement: All the ways he's hurt policing in America as president](#)

USA Today Network Op-Ed by Rep. Pascrell (Jan. 19, 2023)

[We can't let the GOP undermine Jan. 6 panel's findings — or undermine cops](#)